

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern District of Ohio

FILED
RICHARD W. NAGEL
CLERK OF COURT

7/23/21

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DIST. OHIO
WEST. DIV. DAYTON

In the Matter of the Search of

*(Briefly describe the property to be searched
or identify the person by name and address)*Priority Mail Tracking Number
9505516335521188973570
postmarked July 7, 2021

Case No. 3:21MJ275

APPLICATION FOR A WARRANT BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER RELIABLE ELECTRONIC MEANS

I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property *(identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location)*:

Priority Mail Package 9505516335521188973570, addressed to Sara Cota, 2184 Shadowood Circle, Bellbrook, OH 45305, with a return address of Wholesale Drones and More, 20131 SW Cypress St, Newport Beach, CA 92660 located in the Southern District of Ohio, there is now concealed *(identify the person or describe the property to be seized)*:

Controlled Substances, materials and documents reflecting the distribution of controlled substances through the U.S. Mails, including money and/or monetary instruments paid for controlled substances

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is *(check one or more)*:

- ☒ evidence of a crime;
☒ contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;
☐ property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;
☐ a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of:

Code Section
21 USC 841(a)(1)
21 USC 846
21 USC 843(b)

Offense Description
Distribution and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.
Conspiracy to distribute/possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance
Use of a communication facility to commit a felony

The application is based on these facts:
SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT

- ☒ Continued on the attached sheet.
☐ Delayed notice of _____ days *(give exact ending date if more than 30 days)* _____ is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.



Applicant's signature

Brad M. Dorman, U.S. Postal Inspector

Printed name and title

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by
_____ reliable electronic means *(specify reliable electronic means)*.

Date: 7/23/21

City and state: Dayton, OH

_____
Judge's signature_____
United States Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEARCH OF:
PRIORITY MAIL PACKAGE
TRACKING NUMBER
9505516335521188973570

Case No. 3:21MJ275

Filed Under Seal

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF
AN APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT**

I, **Brad M Dorman**, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

1. I am a United States Postal Inspector and have been since August 2017. I am presently assigned to the Cincinnati Field Office of the United States Postal Inspection Service, Pittsburgh Division, with investigative responsibility for southeast Indiana and southern Ohio. Part of my responsibility involves investigating the use of the United States Mail in the transportation of narcotics, other dangerous controlled substances, and financial proceeds from, or instrumentalities used in, the sale of such narcotics and controlled substances (hereinafter, "Drugs and/or Proceeds").

2. Based on my training and experience as a United States Postal Inspector, I have become aware that drug traffickers frequently use United States Priority Mail Express (overnight) or Priority Mail (2-3-day) to transport Drugs and/or Proceeds. Additionally, as a result of prior investigations, law enforcement training, and successful controlled-substance prosecutions involving the use of the United States Mail, I have learned of certain common characteristics and/or circumstances that indicate that a package may contain Drugs and/or Proceeds. These circumstances and/or characteristics include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: the mailer uses different post offices on the same day to send packages, the return address is false or non-existent, the addressee is not known to receive mail at the listed delivery address, the

package is heavily taped, the package is mailed from a known drug source location, the labeling information contains misspellings, the label contains an illegible waiver signature, unusual odors emanate from the package, and the listed address is located in an area of known or suspected drug activity.

3. On July 12, 2021, I intercepted a package (hereinafter “the Package”) at the Cincinnati Network Distribution Center (NDC). The Package is a Priority Mail large flat rate box, bearing tracking number 9505516335521188973570, postmarked July 7, 2021, with the following address information:

Sender: Wholesale Drones and More
20131 SW Cypress St
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Addressee: Sarah Cota
2184 Shadowood Circle
Bellbrook, OH 45305

Through training and experience as a Postal Inspector, I know that Southern California is known drug source location.

4. I performed a check in CLEAR database for the addressee’s information on the Package of “Sarah Cota, 2184 Shadowood Circle, Bellbrook, OH 45305.” CLEAR is a law enforcement database that is used as a tool for investigators to identify person/business and address information. According to CLEAR, there is no “Sarah Cota” associated with 2184 Shadowood Circle, Bellbrook, OH 45305.

5. I also performed a check in CLEAR for the sender’s information listed on the Package of “Wholesale Drones and More, 20131 SW Cypress St, Newport Beach, CA 92660.” According to CLEAR, there is no “Wholesale Drones and More” associated with 20131 SW Cypress St, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

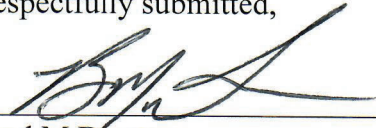
6. On July 21, 2021, at my request, Dayton Police Department Officer Jeremy Stewart conducted a narcotics-detection canine “free air” check of the outside of the Package. I was present during said check. Prior to conducting the “free air” check, I placed the Package in a room with multiple similar and like packages. As set forth in the attached affidavit of Officer Stewart, “Weston” alerted positively for the presence or odor of a narcotic or other controlled substance on the Package. “Weston” is a properly trained and certified narcotics-detection canine.

7. Based on my prior law enforcement training and experience as a United States Postal Inspector, the Package’s address information, including (i) no known association between the sender and return address, (ii) no known association between the addressee and recipient address, and (iii) the positive alert of the narcotics-detection canine are all indicative of and consistent with Drugs and/or Proceeds in the Package.

Therefore, a search warrant to open the Package is requested.

Further, your affiant sayeth naught.

Respectfully submitted,



Brad M Dorman
U.S. Postal Inspector
United States Postal Inspection Service

23rd July

Subscribed and sworn to and before me this ____ day of _____, 2021.

HONORABLE SHARON L. OVINGTON
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE






UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

PITTSBURGH DIVISION

OFFICER AFFIDAVIT

I, Officer JEREMY STEWART, am and have been employed by the DAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT since 2014. Among other duties, I am currently the assigned handler of narcotics detection canine "WESTON" which is trained and certified in the detection of the presence or odor of narcotics described as follows:

Marijuana, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and Heroin

On 07/21/2021, at the request of Postal Inspector DORMAN, I responded to the DAYTON P&DC, where "WESTON" did alert to and indicate upon: [describe item]

USPS Priority Mail Tracking # 9505 5163 3552 1188 9735 70

TO: Sarah Cota
2184 Shadowood Circle
Bellbrook, OH 45305

FROM: Wholesale Drones and More
20131 SW Cypress St
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Which, based upon my training and experience and that of "WESTON", indicates there is contained within or upon the above described item, the presence or odor of a narcotic or other controlled substance.

[Signature] / 26948 / 7-21-21
(Signature, Badge #, and Date)

[Signature] 7/21/2021
(Witness/Date)